

Capsule Summary
SM-638
Abell's Snuffles
Hollywood
Private

c. 1840-1850, c. 1920

Obscured by modern improvements and additions, the original section of Abell's Snuffles was probably constructed c. 1840-1850. The most obvious remnant of the original house consists of an exterior end, eight-to-one common bond, brick chimney located on the building's west side. Beyond this remnant, evidence for the original dwelling's appearance is not visible due to a significant addition to the house which occurred in the 1920s when the property was purchased by H. Eck Jones. During this period, a two story, center passage, single-pile plan frame dwelling engulfed the original house. Like other houses, such as the Denton Farmhouse (SM-146) and the Allstan/Pilkerton House (SM-634), the changes to the dwelling were significant because they reflected late-nineteenth and early twentieth century ideas about housing. Overall, the dwelling illustrates the impact of dimensioned lumber, prefabricated building components, and standardized building plans had upon architectural notions of form and construction.

Frank Dean, a current resident of Hollywood, Maryland, once heard that the original house may have been the residence of a "slave catcher."¹ Unfortunately, no documentary evidence has been found to confirm this nor the owner of the property in the 1840s when the original house may have been built. Prior to 1871, Abell's Snuffles had been the property of Joseph A. Magill. Upon his death, however, the property was sold to Richard Colton. In 1900 the Coltons could not pay the mortgage on the property and the 164 1/2 acre tract was sold on the courthouse steps. From 1900-1920, the tract was conveyed six times until it was purchased by H. Eck Jones. In 1953, Jones sold the property to Paul and Lida Mosher who possessed the property until the death of Lida Mosher in 1992. The house is currently scheduled for demolition.

¹ Telephone Conversation with Frank and Fay Dean, Hollywood, Maryland, April, 1998.

SM-638, Abell's Snuffles
St. Mary's County
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization:	Western Shore
Chronological/Developmental Period:	Agricultural-Industrial Transition, 1815-1870 Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-1930
Historic Period Theme:	Architecture

Resource Type

Category:	Building
Historic Environment:	Rural
Historic Function and Use:	Residence
Known Design Source:	None

7. Description

Survey No. SM-638

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Contributing Resource Count: 1

Abell's Snuffles or the Mosher house is located on the northeast side of Mervell Dean Road approximately in Hollywood, Maryland. Situated on a small knoll overlooking Mervell Dean Road, the house is approached via a paved and dirt drive that lies perpendicular to the dwelling. Oriented on a north/south axis, the dwelling is surrounded by large trees and rolling topography. The 38 acre property is bounded to the north by a wooded tract, west by a mid-twentieth century dwelling, north by Mervell Dean Road, and east by Dean Lumber and the Hollywood United Methodist Church (SM-585). A non-contributing garage lies just east of the house.

Abell's Snuffles is a two story, three bay, center passage, single-pile dwelling with a rear one story shed addition. Constructed in the 1840s-1850s, much of the house was altered in the twentieth century. The dwelling features a brick pier foundation with brick infill between the piers. The exterior is sheathed with clapboard fastened to the sawn braced frame with mature cut nails. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

The primary or south elevation is pierced on the first floor by a centrally located door flanked on the west side by a set of paired six-over-six, double-hung sash windows and to the east side by a six-over-six window. A screened-in porch shades all of these bays. The second floor is pierced by a central set of paired six-over-six windows flanked on either side by a six-over-six window. A cross gable completes the elevation's fenestration as it features a two-over-two window which lights the unfinished attic.

The east elevation is dominated by an centrally located, all stretcher bond brick chimney flue. The chimney features one pair of shoulders which are uncommonly located near the base. To the north of the stack is a six-over-six window. The second floor features a two-over-two window on each side of the chimney. A screened in porch that extends the full length of the north shed addition shades a six-over-six window.

The rear or north elevation consists of the aforementioned porch, rear shed addition, and the second floor openings of the main block. The shed addition is pierced by a centrally located door flanked to the west by a six-over-six window and to the east by a large picture window. A door that permits entry directly into the main block is shaded by the screened-in porch. The second floor of the main block is pierced by three six-over-six windows.

A large eight-to-one common bond, brick, exterior end chimney situated on the west elevation represents the most visible evidence for the 1840s-1850s dwelling. The chimney exhibits both whitewashing as well as red coloring. This elevation also features a six-over-six window which lights the rear shed addition.

The relatively modest, undecorated interior features a center passage, single-pile plan. The center passage, flanked on either side by heated parlors, permits entry into all of the spaces of the house. The passage also contains a winder stair to the two bedrooms of the second floor. The passage terminates into the rooms of the rear shed. These rooms consist of a bedroom, kitchen, and bathroom. The unfinished attic of the main block consistently exhibits circular sawn rafters joined at the peak to a ridge board -- all consistent with twentieth century construction. Due to these extensive remodelings no evidence for the earlier building could be found on the interior.

8. Significance

Survey No. SM-638

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Obscured by modern improvements and additions, the original section of Abell's Snuffles was probably constructed c. 1840–1850. The most obvious remnant of the original house consists of an exterior end, eight-to-one common bond, brick chimney located on the building's west side. Beyond this remnant, evidence for the original dwelling's appearance is not visible due to a significant addition to the house in the late-nineteenth or early twentieth century. During this period, a two story, center passage, single-pile plan frame dwelling engulfed the original house. Like other houses, such as the Denton Farmhouse (SM-146) and the Allstan/Pilkerton House (SM-634), the changes to the dwelling were significant because they reflected late-nineteenth and early twentieth century ideas about housing. Overall, the dwelling illustrates the impact of dimensioned lumber, prefabricated building components, and standardized building plans had upon architectural notions of form and construction.

Frank Dean, a current resident of Hollywood, Maryland, once heard that the house may have been the residence of a "slave catcher."¹ Unfortunately, no documentary evidence has been found to confirm this nor the owner of the property in the 1840s when the original house may have been built. Prior to 1871, Abell's Snuffles had been the property of Joseph A. Magill. Upon his death, however, the property was sold to Richard Colton. In 1900 the Colton's could not pay the mortgage on the property and the 164 1/2 acre tract was sold on the courthouse steps. From 1900–1920, the tract was conveyed six times until it was purchased by H. Eck Jones. Judging from the architectural evidence, it appears that the original dwelling was altered during his ownership. In 1953, Jones sold the property to Paul and Lida Mosher who possessed the property until the death of Lida Mosher in 1992. The house is currently slated for demolition to make way for a residential subdivision.

¹ Telephone Conversation with Frank and Fay Dean, Hollywood, Maryland, April, 1998.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM-638

See Significance 8.1.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 2 acres around houseQuadrangle name HollywoodQuadrangle scale 1:24 000UTM References do NOT complete UTM referencesA

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Zone Easting NorthingB

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Zone Easting NorthingC

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Same as per deed description.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk E. Ranzetta, Historic Sites Surveyororganization St. mary's County Dept. of Planning & Zoningdate 6-16-98street & number 22740 Washington Streettelephone 301-475-4662city or town Leonardtownstate Md

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600

SM-638, Abell's Snuffles
St. Mary's County
8.1 Significance

Chain-of-Title

(All deeds are located at the Land Records Office, St. Mary's County Courthouse, Leonardtown, Maryland unless otherwise noted.)

Reference: Liber EWA 950, Folio 211

Grantee: Dean Family Partnership

Grantor: Fay M. Dean and Joyce M. Hancock -- personal representatives for the estate of Lida E. Mosher

Date: 1-27-95

Notes: The deed notes that Lida E. Mosher died on December 6, 1992 and that her husband died on January 1, 1960. Following her death, Dean and Hancock had a plat of the property drawn (See EWA 39, Folio 121).

Reference: Liber CBG 42, Folio 50

Grantee: Paul J. and Lyda E. Mosher

Grantor: H. Eck Jones

Date: January 10, 1953

Notes: Called Abell's Snuffles and Addition, the property is listed as containing 38 acres.

Reference: Liber EBA 19, Folio 166

Grantee: H. Eck Jones

Grantor: Ellen H. Seymour, et al (heirs of William H. Seymour)

Date: May 28, 1920

Reference: Liber EBA 16, Folio 306

Grantee: William H. Seymour

Grantor: Emma F. Dean, exec. of William C. Dean, et al

Date: May 27, 1917

Notes: Named parcel 1 and containing 68 acres, the property was conveyed to Emma via the will of William C. Dean (Liber PHD 1, Folio 473).

Reference: Liber EBA 9, Folio 475

Grantee: William C. Dean

Grantor: Dorcas E. and John P. Pilkerton

Date: January 7, 1911

Reference: Liber EBA 6, Folio 367

Grantee: Emma F. Dean

Grantor: Annie C. and Samuel E. Jones

Date: June 1, 1907

Reference: Liber EBA 2, Folio 202-203

Grantee: Annie E. Jones

Grantor: Ada L. and Joseph H. Ching

Date: August 27, 1901

Notes:

SM-638, Abell's Snuffles
St. Mary's County
8.2 Significance

Reference: Liber EBA 2, Folio 201

Grantee: Ada L. Ching

Grantor: Jennie S. and U. Lee Maguire

Date: August 26, 1901

Notes: Here the property is listed as containing 164 acres.

Reference: Liber EBA 2, Folio 124

Grantee: Jennie S. Maguire (Ching)

Grantor: Joseph H. Ching, trustee

Date: May 20, 1900

Notes: When F. Garrett Colton could not pay his mortgage on "Abell's Snuffle," the circuit court ordered the sale of the property on the steps of the Leonardtown Court House. According to the deed Garrett had received the property from Fannie Colton who received the property from Richard Colton (See JTMR 1, Folio 389, dated November 23, 1875). No further deeds could be found.

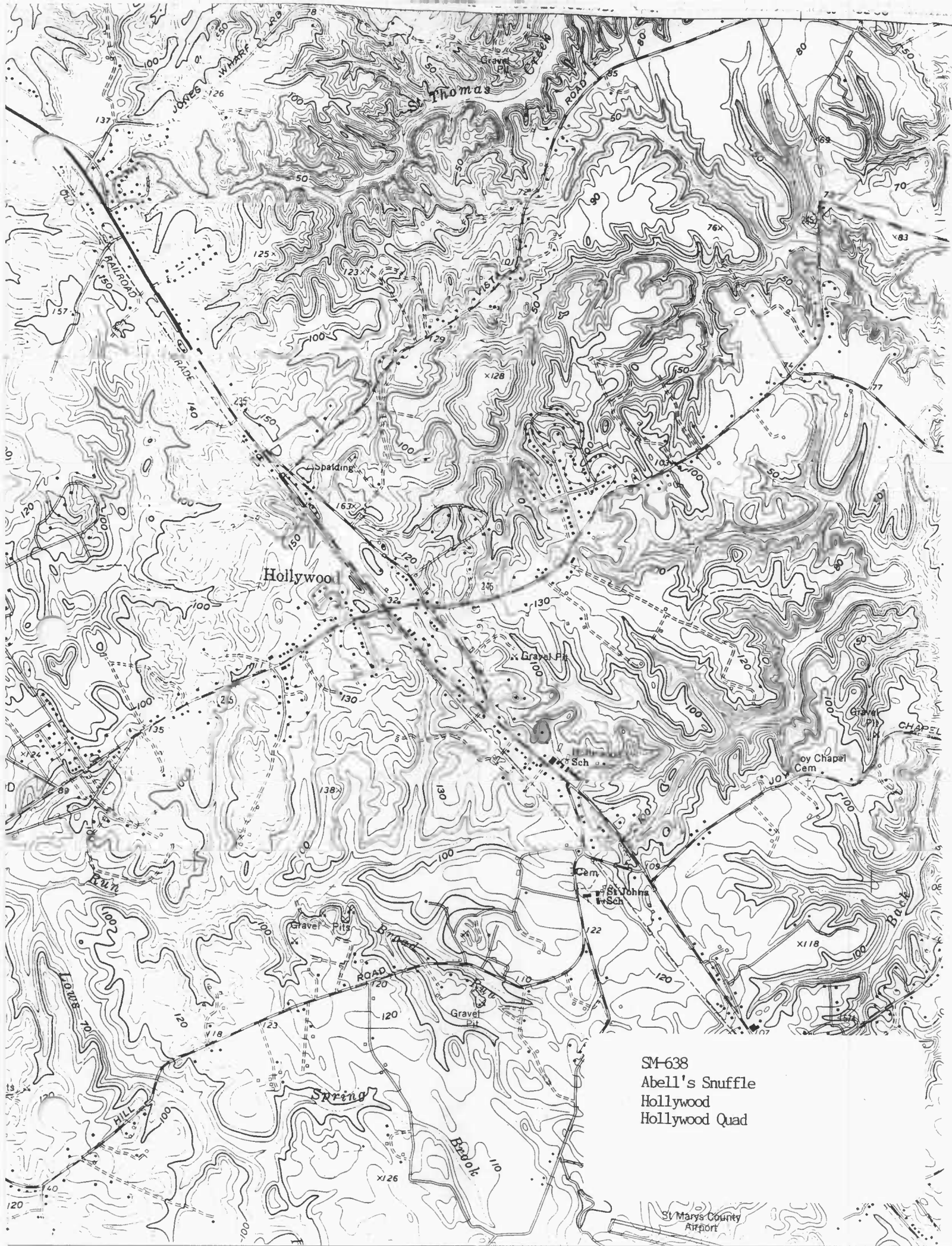
Reference: Liber JAC 6, Folio 395

Grantee: Richard Colton

Grantor: John H. Magill, administrator of Joseph A. Magill

Date: April 8, 1871

Notes: The property is listed as containing 164 1/2 acres and lists Joseph A. Magill as the prior owner.



SM-638
Abell's Snuffle
Hollywood
Hollywood Quad

St Marys County
Airport



SM-638

Abell's Snuffle

St. Mary's County

Kirk Ranzetta

May/98

did SHPO

S + E elevations

1 of 2.



SM-638

Abell's Snuffle

St. Mary's County
Kirk Ranzetta

May/98

Mid CHPO

N & W elevations

2 of 2